

Arkansas Fire Boat School

June 3-4, 2016

DeGray Lake

Event Summary: AFBS brings firefighters and emergency response personnel together for an annual training exercise that simulates water emergency scenarios based on real-life emergency events. Crews work through a formal Incident Command system to respond with timely, safe, efficient, and strategic goals in undertaking each scenario. Scenarios are designed to challenge crews via live, hands-on simulated events, in unique water and fire response emergency skills including: wildfire suppression and safety, medical response, defensive driving, boat maneuvering, urban slackwater events, streamline operations, teamwork, crew-to-crew partnerships, Incident Command protocols, and more.

This training is planned by a committee of boat crew firefighters and emergency professionals from local, private, state, and federal agencies, and is accredited by the Arkansas Fire Academy.

Who Qualifies?

- Fire departments that have acquired fire boats through the Arkansas Forestry Commission Rural Fire Property Program are required to attend annually.
- Any other fire departments with active fire boats on waterways are invited to improve and develop fire boat skills (for large/small boats).

Partners, Sponsors, and Friends:

Arkansas Forestry Commission, Arkansas Fire Academy, Air Evac, AAMSCO, Salamandar, Arkansas Department of Health, Subway, Sysco Foods, U.S. Coast Guard, Elkhart Brass/G&W Diesel, UAMS Emergency Preparedness Office, Air Evac, Lifenet, U.S. Corps of Engineers, Western Pilot Services, Iron Mountain Lodge and Marina, and several Arkansas volunteer fire departments including Buckville, Conway, Haskell, Jessieville, Joplin, Lake Hamilton, and Lake Village.



Request a full Arkansas Fire Boat School Training Application, Agenda, and Briefing from arkansasfireboats@gmail.com

What is Arkansas Fire Boat School?

Hands-on training; Live simulated scenarios; Highly trained instructors

AFBS is divided into a two-day training event, which begins Friday, June 3rd. Crews will begin checking in at 12 p.m. on Friday and pass all mandatory safety inspections. A dinner and mandatory training briefing are held Friday evening. Crews will then train on the water all day Saturday, June 4th from 8:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

Scenarios simulate live water incidents that are often based on actual Arkansas waterway emergencies. Crews interact with other fire departments from across Arkansas and surrounding states, with multiple skill levels. Training is divided into unique scenarios designed to challenge large and small boat crews for different types of emergencies, on different types of waterways. AFBS allows for interactive, hands-on training within a live Incident Command System, and under instruction from leaders in emergency response and training.

AFBS is also changed and updated each year. So – welcome back returning crews! The AFBS Committee works to update and/or completely change scenario offerings from year-to-year to provide new and improved training to crews each time they return. Fire crews are also encouraged to send different firefighters each year.

How can crews register?

Registration requires that all participating crew members have taken the Arkansas Boater Safety Education Course, certified by the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission. Arkansas Fire Academy Forms, and a separate Arkansas Fire Boat School form (including specific crew and boat information) are also required. **The 3 items required for crew registration must be submitted to by Monday, May 9, 2016.**

What cost is involved with attending?

Registration is FREE

There is no registration fee for boats to participate. Crews are also fed supper the evening of Friday, June 3rd through generous support from Sysco Foods and lunch on Saturday, June 4th through generous support by Subway. Crews are responsible for arranging their overnight stay, near Arkadelphia, on Friday, June 3rd, and for transportation and operation costs through the duration of training on June 4th. Crews are also encouraged to bring plenty of water and snacks for the long training day on Saturday.